

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of Program Resources Management

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #12 (SO12)

(Conflict Reduced in Mindanao and Other Areas Vulnerable to Violence)

US to invest more in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY (PNA) — The United States government is keen on pouring more investments in Mindanao due to the "great return" it gets from the assistance it gives to the island.

John Linborg, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-Philippines country director, told this to over 1,000 foreign and local traders participating in the 14th Mindanao Business Conference (Minbizcon) here.

"Mindanao is a place where we get a great return of our investments in terms of security, peace and order, education and employment," Linborg said.

Accordingly, Mindanao gets 60 percent (US\$5.4 million) of USAID's US\$9-million total assistance to the Philippines yearly.

The grant is distributed to various devel-

opment programs such as skills enhancement, literacy, micro-enterprise development, export and trade promotions, infrastructure and other socio-economic programs like water and power support, health, and environment pro-

The USAID is also active in helping Moro rebels in war-torn communities renew their lives through massive livelihood assistance. To date, USAID has assisted over 28,000 rebels in Mindanao.

Linborg also renewed the USAID's commitment for the continued development of Mindanao.

The US official then expressed appreciation to the Mindanao business community as it played a vital role in the island's development.

(Source: Manila Bulletin, 9/19/05, page G4)